



THE NATIONAL BIRD.

GUY ELLIOTT MITCHELL.

The great American bird, the bird which will scream back an answer to you every time you imitate his "gobble" or otherwise "make a noise like a gobble," has along with his domesticator, man, driven the other American bird far into the back woods, figuratively and actually.

When the Indians owned the land, the eagle and the turkey stood on

ing, people have become so disheartened in some localities with the meager results of their efforts to grow turkeys for market that they have desisted from the attempt.

Mr. T. F. McGrew, of New York, a well-known judge of poultry and a writer on breeds and breeding, has written a turkey bulletin for the Department of Agriculture, which is known as Farmers' Bulletin No. 200, and in this he says that there is no other kind of livestock that will return so large a profit to the successful producer as will poultry, and no kind of poultry is more profitable than turkeys when properly handled. The fact that turkeys will, from the time they are six weeks old until winter sets in, gain the greater part of their entire living from bugs, grasshoppers, and waste grain that they pick up in their wanderings over the range, assures their existence through this period at little or no cost to the grower. In other words, they may be termed self-sustaining foragers, where they have sufficient range.

The Bronze Turkey.

This turkey holds the post of honor. It is possibly a cross between the wild turkey and the tame turkey, which latter is generally believed to have descended from either the North American wild turkey, the Mexican wild turkey, or the Honduras or Ocellated turkey. Its beautiful rich plumage and its size have come from its wild progenitor. To maintain these desirable qualities, crosses are continually necessary. In this way the mammoth size has been gained, the standard weight ranging from sixteen to thirty-six pounds, according to age and sex. The coloring of this variety is a ground of black blazoned or shaded with bronze. This shading is rich and glowing, and when the sun's rays are reflected from these colors, they shine like polished steel. The female is not as rich in color as the male, but both have the same color and shading. Much of this richness of color is lost

YOUNG BRONZE COCKS.

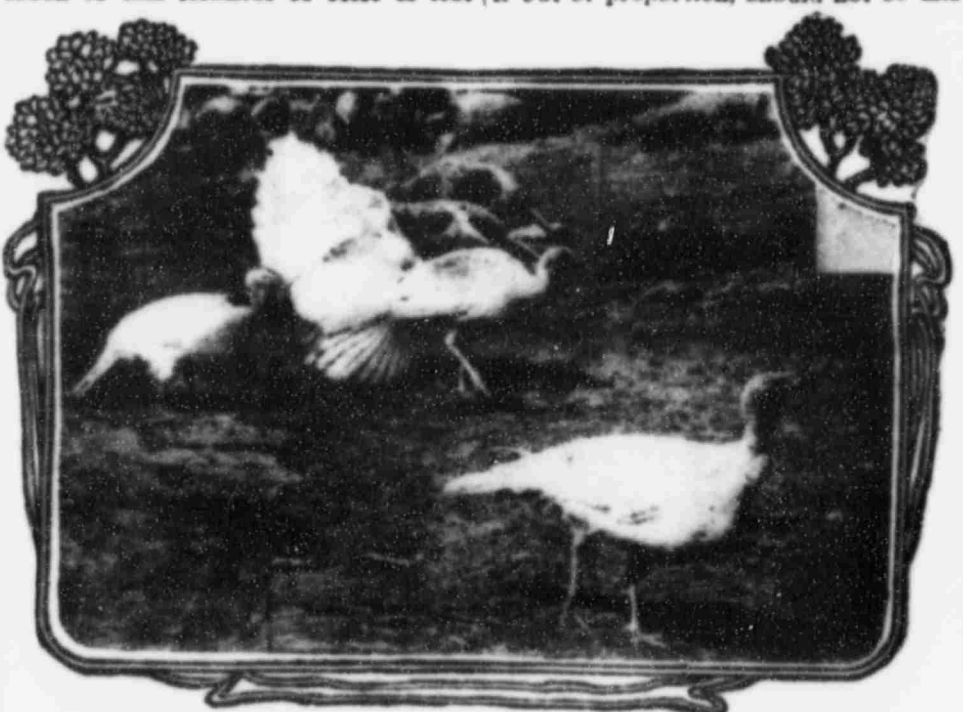
probably an equal footing, the one the tyrant of the air and the other the king of game birds. Both were hunted by the Indians, the eagle to furnish plumage for his war bonnet, and the turkey, of course, for food.

But now the eagle seldom is hunted and still more seldom ever killed or captured, while the turkey is found in hundreds of thousands of farm yards.

Although the North American wild turkey is a beautiful and resplendent game bird, with feathers of black, shaded with a rich bronze and illuminated with a lustrous finish of coppery color, his domesticated cousin, while improved nothing in appearance, has been bred up to outweigh any other domestic fowl, thirty or thirty-five pounds being not uncommon among prize turkey flocks.

According to the Department of Agriculture the growing of turkeys has improved within the last few years as a result of a determined effort on the part of producers of what is termed "standard bred or exhibition" stock to demonstrate that it is more profitable to use pure bred breeding stock than the smaller and less vigorous stock of days gone by. Their efforts to introduce throughout the country the several standard varieties of turkeys have greatly improved our turkey growing industry. This effort has supplied rich, new, vigorous blood throughout the whole country, adding strength and virility to innumerable flocks, many of which had become considerably deteriorated through inbreeding.

Deterioration Through Inbreeding.
The fact that one fecundation is sufficient to render fertile all the eggs of one laying has made possible the undermining of the health and vigor of the present-day domestic turkey. Being advised of this, hundreds of people depend upon their neighbors' flocks for the services of a male and pay no attention to the matter of breeding stock except to keep one or two turkey hens. This has reduced many of the turkeys throughout the country almost to a condition of imbecility. The lack of vigor in a large portion of the breeding stock through



GROUP OF WHITE TURKEYS.

through inbreeding, as it is improved by each cross with the wild specimens. Of all our domestic fowls none suffer from inbreeding so much as turkeys. This should be guarded against at all times, if it is hoped to gain the best results.

Naturally the Bronze turkey should be the largest in size, the most vigorous in constitution, and the most prof-

taken for size; full-rounded body and breast indicate value most clearly; size and strength of bone indicate constitutional vigor which should be maintained through the selection of the very best at all times for producing stock. When special care is given to the selection of the breeding stock, and the grower bears in mind these profitable characteristics—compactness of form, length of breast and body, and constitutional vigor—the most satisfactory results may come from the growing of this variety. But no matter how much care may be given these conditions, only partial success will come if inbreeding is permitted. The use of oversized males with small females is of less advantage than the use of smaller males with well-matured, medium-sized females.

The Narragansett Turkey.

This turkey is a noble looking, full-chested bird but is not so large as the Bronze. Its color is a black background with a steel-gray edge to the feather which imparts a metallic black-and-bronze luster. The cocks, or toms, weigh from 20 to 30 pounds, and some old ones have gone 40 pounds. The Narragansett is a desirable breed and some growers declare that they will reach market size and condition in less time than the Bronze turkeys.

The Buff Turkey.

As bred for market these turkeys are a reddish buff or light chestnut color mixed with white and some dark shading. They are highly valued in some localities for their quick growth and for their attractiveness when dressed, although they do not run as the Narragansett or the Bronze.

The White Turkey.

In America the white variety is called the White Holland turkey. In England they are known as "Austrian Whites," where they are considered sports from other turkeys. They range from 10 pounds for young hens to 25 pounds for old cocks, although they have run as high as 35 pounds at fairs. Mr. McGrew states that white turkeys are quite as easy to grow as any other variety, and he states that one cannot select a better kind for all uses than the White Holland. They grow to the most profitable sizes, dress beautifully for market, their light, pinkish-white shanks add to their appearance; and with them, as with all white poultry, the pin feathers show less than in darker varieties. The very largest turkeys are not as profitable either to grow or to sell. The medium sizes—from 9 to 15 pounds dressed—are the most desirable for family use. Other turkeys are the Black turkey, similar to, if not much the same, as

the English Norfolk turkey, the Slate turkey, and the red Bourbon turkey, which is similar to the Buff turkey. In addition to the North American wild turkey, the Mexican wild turkey still affords splendid sport, as does also the Honduras turkey, which is found in various parts of Central America, both birds being resplendent and of savory flesh.

The turkey bulletin of the Department of Agriculture above mentioned is a brief booklet which will certainly be read with interest by anyone growing or caring for turkeys. It describes the different varieties, and devotes fifteen or twenty pages to the selection and care of breeding stock, turkey houses and ranges, incubation, hatching, growing and feeding the birds, marketing and also the ailments to



THE NORTH AMERICAN WILD TURKEY.

Do not select the very large specimens for this purpose; those of a medium size are usually the best. Discard the undersized females at all times, as they are of but little value as producers. Length of shank and thigh, if out of proportion, should not be mis-

which turkeys are subject. Drop a postal to your member of Congress or Senator, and he will send you one.

Food Value of Eggs.

Popular belief to the contrary, there is no difference in the nutritive qualities of eggs with dark shells and those with light. Their flavor is affected by the food of the fowl for good or for evil. Exhaustive experiments by well equipped investigators prove that the egg deserves its reputation as an easily assimilated and highly nutritious food, if eaten raw or lightly cooked. Such experiments also show that eggs at twelve cents a dozen are a cheap source of nutrients; at sixteen cents, somewhat expensive, and at twenty-five cents and over, highly extravagant.

The basis of comparison was the market prices of standard flesh foods considered in relation to their nutritive elements. But there is a physiological constituent of eggs which is of great value, yet it defies the search of the scientist or the inquisition of the statistician, and that is their palatability. Unless a food, however rich in proteins, is relished, it loses much of its value, while, per contra, a less chemically desirable food that is enjoyed becomes valuable by reason of that fact.

FAIR STUDENTS IN REVOLT.

Object to the Measuring Methods of Their Gymnasium Instructor.

The girls of the freshman and sophomore classes of the University of Cincinnati have been going about with traces of tears on their cheeks, and asking each other, "Have you been scheduled?"

At first the girls did not know what "scheduling" meant when they received confidential notes from Miss Edna Earl Hope, teacher of the girls' gymnasium work at the varsity. Their presence alone in her private room was requested at such and such a time. The "alone" looked mysterious and the girls held a consultation. Then the bravest faced Miss Hope. When she went in to Miss Hope her face was eager, but when she came out it was scarlet.

"And what do you think?" she whispered. "You have to take off all your clothes."

"And after she gets your clothes off, what then?" chorused the girls. Then the first girl told, with tears and gasps, how the new gym teacher placed an adjustable rig about the hips and measured them—the hips—yes! And she measured the arms and the "er—er—legs. The bust expansion and the length of the fingers, and how big the chest is when the girl takes a long breath, and how little it gets when the girl expels her breath. Then she subtracts the difference, divides it by two, and multiplies the result by three, and says:

"There's where you ought to be, and maybe you'll be that by the end of the year, when the second physical examination comes."

The girls held an indignation meeting the latter part of the week, and a committee was secretly appointed to wait on President Dabney.

"But," said the girls on the committee, "we would rather take one of those scheduled things than to tell a man about it."

Because of the excitement of those girls who were "scheduled" Miss Hope has now provided a garment in making the "test."

Lacking in Education.

Little Freddie, having lost a nickel was crying bitterly.

An old gentleman who had stopped to investigate said: "My boy you shouldn't cry that way."

"But," said the little fellow, "I don't know how to cry any other way."

"Say not goodbye, but in some brighter clime, bid me good morning."

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He Was Inconspicuous.

In the opening days of the American Revolution, when France had recognized the independence of the United States, and we had shown ourselves determined upon stubborn resistance, the English Parliament were driven to a final "conciliatory bill" for the recovery of their colonial possessions. Most everything was conceded by this act, but nowhere was allusion made to absolute independence. Lord Carlisle, William Eden and Gov. Johnstone, in the capacity of special commissioners, brought the bill to America and lost little time submitting the plan of conciliation to Congress, together with an insolent letter. That body hardly gave it consideration, but forthwith rejected the plan proposed by the ministry.

Foiled in every attempt, but not dismayed, the commissioners now resorted to measures distinguished in infamy and baseness. They opened secret correspondence with members of Congress, and, through a female agent, Mr. Reed, a delegate from Pennsylvania, was offered \$50,000 and the best office in the colonies that his majesty could bestow if he would use his influence in favor of the conciliatory bill. Mr. Reed's reply, as well as memory, should be enshrined in the hearts of every loyal Pennsylvanian. It was simply this: "I am not worth purchasing, but such as I am, the King of England is not rich enough to do it."

The Alexandrian Library.

Said Omar, "Either these books are in conformity with the Koran, or they are not. If they are, they are useless, and if not, they are evil; in either event, let them be destroyed."

Such was the logic that led to the destruction of seven hundred thousand manuscript volumes in Alexandria.

Pliny tells us that Homer's Iliad, with its 15,000 verses was written in a space as small as a walnut shell.

In more remote times an account is given of an ivory chariot constructed by Menekides, so small that a fly could cover it with one of its wings, and of a ship that could be concealed by the wing of a bee.

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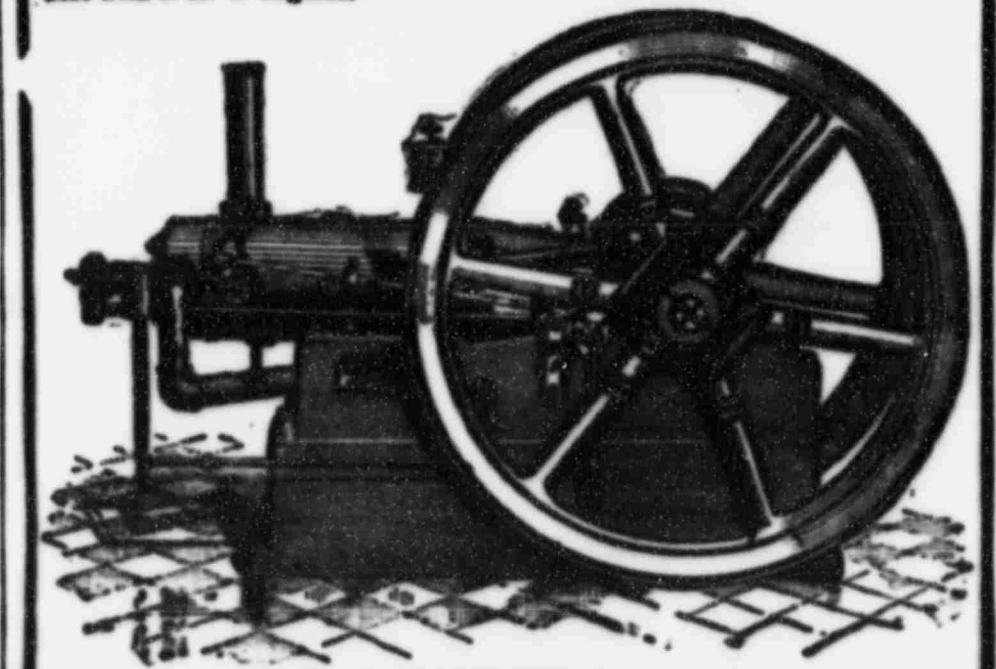
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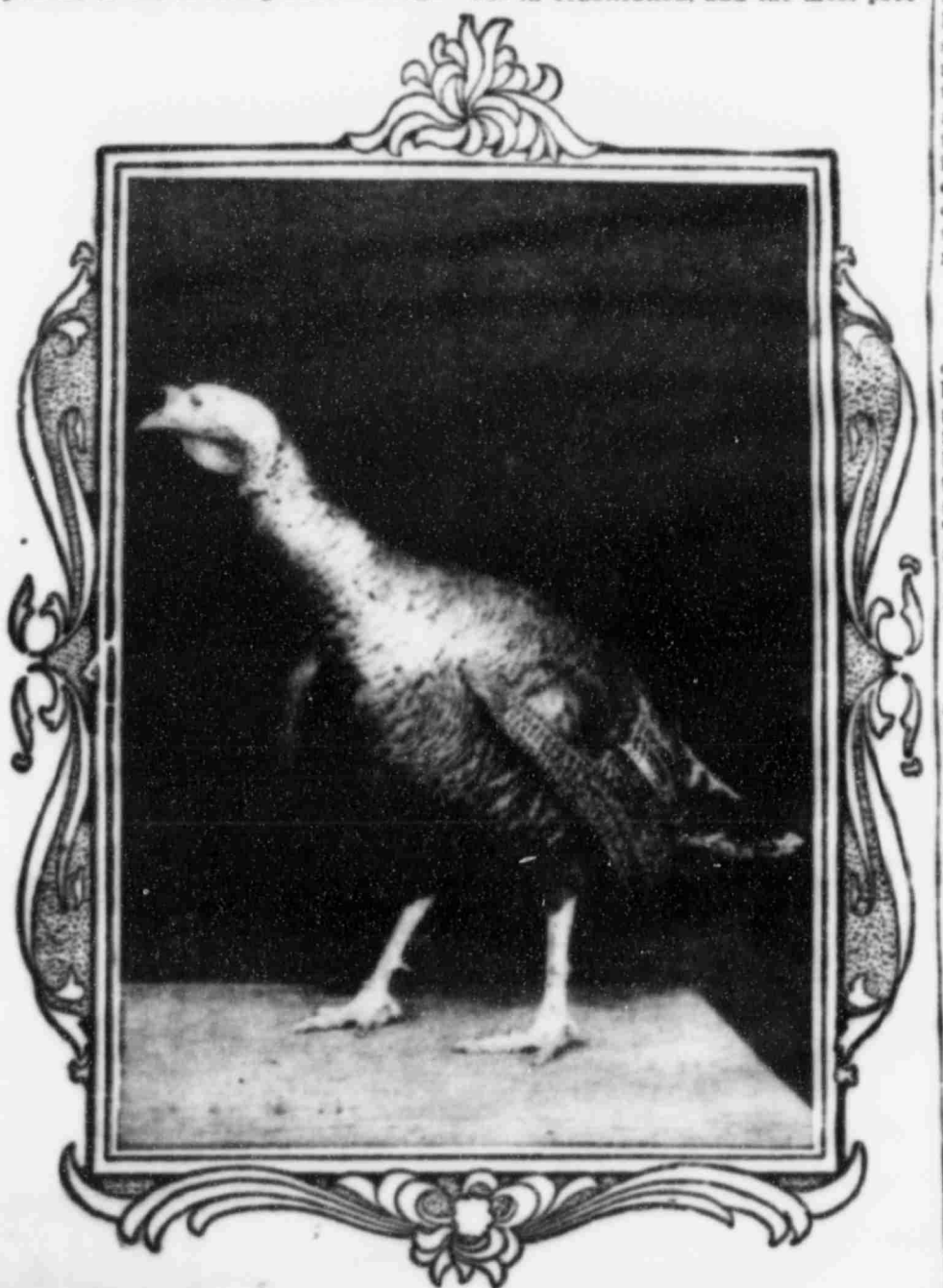
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A FORTY POUND BRONZE GOBLER.

out the country has jeopardized to a certain extent the production of a sufficient number of market turkeys to supply the demand. In fact, not fully realizing that their failure was largely due to undermining the vitality of their breeding stock through inbreed-

ing, people have become so disheartened in some localities with the meager results of their efforts to grow turkeys for market that they have desisted from the attempt.